

## **Frequently Asked Questions about Hearing Aids and Hearing Tests at the Portland VA Medical Center**

### **1) Can I get hearing aids through the Portland VA Medical Center?**

You can get hearing aids through the Portland VA if you:

- are 0% service connected (or more) for hearing or tinnitus
- are 10% service connected (or more) for any condition
- are an OEF/OIF veteran discharged within the last two years
- were a Prisoner of War (POW)
- received a Purple Heart
- receive Aid & Attendance from the VA
- are a housebound veteran
- are a blind veteran enrolled in VIST or BROS
- need hearing aids to help you manage a serious medical condition (your doctor can refer you to audiology if this is the case for you)

If you would like to talk to someone at the VA about eligibility for hearing aids you can call the eligibility office at (503)-220-8262 ext. 55069.

### **2) I don't know if I'm service connected. How do I find out?**

You can call either Regional Office or the eligibility office and ask.

Regional Office (downtown Portland): 1-800-827-1000

Enrollment Office (at the Portland VA): (503) 220-8262 ext. 55069

Helpful Hint: If you have never filed a claim with Regional Office for a disability caused by your military service, then you most likely are not service connected.

### **3) Can I get my hearing tested at the Portland VA Medical Center?**

- In most cases, you will need to ask your primary care doctor to refer you to audiology if you would like to get your hearing tested. Your request may or may not be granted.
- Usually it's best to get a referral to audiology from your doctor. However, you can call the audiology clinic directly to make an appointment if you are:
  - 0% service connected (or more) for hearing or tinnitus
  - 10% service connected (or more) for any condition

**4) I don't qualify for hearing aids through the VA, and I want to buy hearing aids outside of the VA. How do I do that?**

There are many audiologists in the community who fit hearing aids. Here are some ways to find one:

- Ask friends and family if they know any audiologists they would recommend.
- Look in the yellow pages under "audiologist."
- Visit <http://www.asha.org/proserv/> online to find an audiologist certified by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.
- Visit <http://webportal.audiology.org/Custom/FindAnAudiologist.aspx> online to find an audiologist who is a fellow of the American Academy of Audiology.
- Visit <http://www.oregonaudiology.org/20833.html> online to see a list of audiologists who belong to the Oregon Academy of Audiology.

Helpful Hint: You can access the internet for free at a public library. If you don't know how to use the internet, a librarian will show you how.

**5) I don't qualify for hearing aids through the VA, and I can't afford to buy them outside of the VA. What can I do about that?**

Here a few organizations outside of the VA that might be able to help:

Oregon Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation  
1410 SW Morrison Street, Suite 760  
Portland, OR 97205  
503-827-6952  
1-800-635-4667

AUDIENT Alliance for Accessible Hearing Care  
Northwest Lions Foundation for Sight & Hearing  
901 Boren Street, Suite 810  
Seattle, WA 98104-3534  
1-877-283-4368

Hear Now  
6700 Washington Avenue South  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344  
1-800-648-4327

